(b) if so, when and the salient features of this reactor and the cost involved in the project;

(c) howfar it is expected to increase the production, per year, of middle distillates like kerosene and diesel; and

(d) whether there is any plan to set-up similar hydro cracker plants at other refineries, if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) to (d) The projects is expected to be commissioned during early 1993 at an approximate cost of Rs. 757.24 Crores. The basic feature of this process is that relatively larger quantities of middle distillates like kerosene, Diesel etc. can be obtained as compared to other processess. The refineries being set up at Mangalore, Assam and Karnal will also include hydro cracker processing.

Tender for Multi-Purpose support Vessels (MSVs)

2459. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the ONGC has ignored the advice of its own experts in regard to the evaluation of a tender for Multi-purpose Support Vessels (MSVs) as reported in the Times of India of 24th October, 1992;

(b) whether the matter is likely to be reviewed ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. After consideration of the recommendations of the regional authorities, ONGC has given an equal opportunity to all bidders to submit best reduced prices.

Setting up of HBJ Pipeline from Bombay High to U. P. (Jagdishpur)

2460. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAV RAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) What is the total cost required to set up HBJ Pipline from Bombay High to Uttar Pradesh (Jagdishpur);

(b) whether it is a fact that due to this impractical pipeline cost of gas was considerably increased;

(c) what is the total loss per annum due to flaring up of gas; and

(d) whether Government propose to open a second gas terminal at Usar in Bombay for the utilisation of gas ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) Rs. 1750 crores approximately.

(b) There was no increase in the basic price of gas on account of the pipeline; a transportation charge is however levied.

(c) Currently, approximately 4.4 MMSCMD of gas valued at about Rs. 50 lakhs per day is being flared.

(d) Government has approved, in principle, the concept of a gas pipeline from the Western Offshore to the Southern region from a suitable landfall point on the Western Coast.

Setting up of Two Oil Refinery Projects at Sikka Nagar and Jamnagar in Gujarat

2461. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have approved a ten thousand crore rupees project submitted by the Gujarat Government for setting up of two oil refineries at Sikka Nagar and Jamnaagr in Gujarat;

(b) whether it is also a fact that these two refinery projects are likely to be commissioned by two private sector enterprises, if so, the details thereof;

(c) what is the estimated production and employment generation in each of these projects; and

(d) what is the time schedule fixed for commissioning these projects ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) and (b) Two crude oil and one lube refinery

have been permitted to be set up in the private sector in the State of Gujarat.

(c) and (d) These details will be known only after the detailed projects reports become available.

Transporting Natural Gas through HBJ Pipeline for Fertilizer Plants

2462. SHRI ANANTRAY DEV SHANKER DAVE : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the HBJ pipeline was originally conceived for transporting natural gas for fertilizer plants only; and

(b) whether it was based on a study that it would be more economical to transport gas through pipeline and manufacture fertilizers rather than to transport fertilizers over long distances?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

Requirement of Natural Gas

2463. SHRI ANANTRAY DEV SHANKER DAVE : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) what is the total quantity of natural gas required to meet all the commitments from Hazira and HBJ pipeline;

(b) what was the projected availablity of gas at Hazira when these comitment were made; and

(c) whether this projected availablity includes gas from the Tapti fields ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) to (c) The projected availability in the Year 1990 when the last commitments were made was 40 MMSCMD by 1994-95, which included supplies from Tapti/Gandhar fields. Commitments were made after applying a diversity factor for both firm and fallback users.

Few Takers for Oil Exploration contracts

2464. DR. SANJAYA SINGH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the fourth round of bidding for exploration contracts has not attracted many multinational Oil Companies as per the news item entitled "Few takers for Oil exploration Contracts", which appeared in the "Indian Express", dated the 29th October, 1992; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) and (b) A total of 24 bids have been received from 31 companies for 13 blocks. 21 foreign companies have participated in these bids.

Number of Gas/Oil Cargoes Purchased from other Countries

2465. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) number of gas/oil cargoes that have been purchased from other countries or accepted for purchase by Indian Oil Corporation and other Oil Companies of the country for East and West Coasts of the country (separately) in the current year, compared to such purchase made in the previous year; and

(b) what are the reasons therefor and the amount involved ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) :